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Letter dated 11 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of June 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (June 2013)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in June 2013, the Security Council held a total of 20 meetings, of which 3 were private and 4 were thematic. The Council adopted four resolutions and two presidential statements and issued eight statements to the press.

Africa

Liberia sanctions

On 13 June, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Liberia sanctions. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Masood Khan, briefed the Council as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia. The Chair said that the Panel of Experts, whose mandate had been extended by the Council in resolution 2079 (2012), continued to investigate violations of the arms embargo and cross-border attacks, including emerging security concerns along the Liberia-Sierra Leone border. The Panel had provided an update on the activities and assets of individuals still subject to the travel ban and the asset freeze. The Panel had noted that the ineffectiveness of the regional offices was a key challenge to the successful implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds. Government control of the gold sector remained weak, but the Panel had found no evidence that revenues generated by the gold industry had been used directly to purchase weapons. However, remote gold mines continued to be used as self-sustaining assembly areas for militants and as areas to hide weapons. Conflict between communities and commercial companies persisted in the palm oil sector. The Government had not cancelled the procedurally flawed and illegal issuance of private use permits, which could lead to instability. Council members agreed that the arms embargo should remain in place, given the continued threat of cross-border attacks, the lack of legislation to allow it to be enforced and the failure of the Government to mark weapons. Council members also agreed further to review the targeted sanctions following the Panel's final report.

Libya

On 18 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Libya. The Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Eugène-Richard Gasana, also briefed the Council on the work of the Libya sanctions committee.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the situation in Libya had become more fragile since he had last briefed the Council in March. The outbreaks of violence in Benghazi on 8 and 15 June, the declaration by the Cyrenaica Transitional Council of a federal region in eastern Libya on 1 June and the siege of Government ministries by revolutionary brigades that led to the adoption of the political isolation law on 5 May, were events that bore witness to the significant challenges facing the Government of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan and Libya's democratic transition.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the increased likelihood of violent clashes between Government forces and revolutionary brigades, the risks to national reconciliation presented by the implementation of the political isolation law and the deeply worrying situation of the approximately 8,000 conflict-related detainees, demonstrated the urgency of adopting a transitional justice law based on truth-seeking, accountability and reparations. A draft was currently being considered by the General National Congress, and UNSMIL continued to provide advice on its scope and implementation.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General explained that the challenges facing the country may well have been the legacy of decades of authoritarian rule, dysfunctional State institutions and confusion around political norms. He said that he had repeatedly advocated establishing a national political dialogue to help to find consensus on the priorities for the transitional period. UNSMIL stood ready to facilitate that process, if requested by the Government of Libya. UNSMIL also continued to offer advice and assistance to the constitutional process, including encouraging the adoption of special measures to enhance women's participation in the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the role of UNSMIL in Libya had been subject to some controversy following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2095 (2013), under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Some in Libya suspected the international community's intentions as having an interventionist design under Chapter VII, while others called for a more robust United Nations presence. The Special Representative said that efforts needed to be made to dispel misperceptions and false expectations about the role of the United Nations.

Mr. Gasana updated Council members on the activities of the Libya sanctions committee and the Panel of Experts on Libya since the adoption in March of Council resolution 2095 (2013). He reported on the monitoring undertaken by the Panel of Experts in respect of compliance with the arms embargo, the asset freeze and the travel ban, including specific mention of the relocation of Aisha Qadhafi from Algeria to Oman.

In closed consultations, all Council members expressed concern over developments in Libya, focusing on security, politics and the situation with respect to detainees. They agreed on the urgent need for the Government to develop effective security forces, demobilize and reintegrate revolutionary brigades, tackle extremists, improve the security of its southern borders and control weapons proliferation. Council members regretted the severity of the political isolation law and the impact that its implementation would have on Libya's political transition. Council members expressed deep concern that the situation for nearly 8,000 conflict-related detainees had not improved and that UNSMIL had observed a

number of cases of torture. All Council members said that the international community and UNSMIL had a crucial role to play in supporting Libyan State-building efforts.

On 20 June, Council members issued a statement to the press on Libya (SC/11042), in which they expressed serious concern about the continued arbitrary detentions without access to due process of thousands of persons held outside the authority of the State.

Mali

On 19 June, the members of the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11040), in which they welcomed the signing of the preliminary agreement to the presidential election and the inclusive peace talks in Mali in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013 between the transitional authorities of Mali, the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad. The members of the Security Council noted that the agreement paved the way for the nationwide holding of presidential elections and established a framework for inclusive talks with all communities of the north of Mali, which constituted an important step towards lasting peace and stability in Mali. The members of the Security Council called on those groups in northern Mali that were not signatories to the agreement and that had cut off all ties with terrorist groups to commit unconditionally to all the provisions of the agreement.

On 25 June, the Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the situation in Mali. In the open session, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Albert Koenders; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous; and the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Field Support, Ameerah Haq. The interim Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Tiéman Hubert Coulibaly, also made a statement.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the security situation; the mediation and national reconciliation process, including the preliminary agreement recently agreed in Ouagadougou; preparations for the elections; and the humanitarian and human rights situation. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that his Department was focused on maintaining a seamless continuity between the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and MINUSMA. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support said that her Department was focused on providing rations for the troops, fuel for vehicles and premises for working and living. Mr. Coulibaly said that remarkable progress had been made on the security and political tracks and urged the Council to authorize the transfer of authority from AFISMA to MINUSMA.

In consultations, Council members unanimously agreed that the transfer of authority from AFISMA to MINUSMA on 1 July should proceed, as envisaged by the Council in resolution 2100 (2013). Some Council members raised concerns about the preparedness of the AFISMA troops and the timing of the presidential elections. Some Council members also emphasized the need for enhanced efforts to address the humanitarian and human rights situation in Mali.

Sahel

On 26 June, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the situation in the Sahel region. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Romano Prodi, briefed the Council during the open session. The Special Envoy introduced the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. He said that his vision was for a four-by-four strategy, based on four pillars — governance, security, humanitarian requirements and development — and coordination in four spheres: among the Governments of the region; within the international community; among the peoples of the Sahel; and within the United Nations system. He said that the situation in Mali was symptomatic of what would happen in other parts of the Sahel if the international community failed to respond to the Sahel's challenges. He stated that success or failure in Mali would affect the entire Sahel; however, while focus and attention on Mali was critical, it should not be at the expense of the rest of the region.

Council members broadly welcomed the United Nations integrated strategy, but said that the key to its success would be in its implementation. The Permanent Representative of Morocco said that his delegation would draft a Security Council presidential statement calling for coordinated United Nations action to implement the strategy.

Somalia

On 6 June the Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, on the situation in Somalia. The meeting was chaired by Member of Parliament and United Kingdom Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, and the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Tekeda Alemu, both spoke under rule 37.

The Deputy Secretary-General paid tribute to the London Conference on Somalia. He said that through the launching of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) on 3 June, the United Nations had begun a new phase of engagement in Somalia, in which the Organization would deliver "one door to knock on" for the Somali people, through an integrated mission. Progress over the past year had been good, but significant challenges remained. The Deputy Secretary-General said that Somalia now needed to focus on peacebuilding, reconciliation and the protection of human rights.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the Government needed to focus on the implementation of a federal structure, the constitutional review process and a clear timetable towards elections in 2016. They would have the full support of UNSOM in doing this. Turning to events in Kismayo, he said the purported election of Ahmed Madobe was unconstitutional. He reported that there had been no reports of fighting yet, but that violence was certainly possible. Somalia needed help from its friends and neighbours in the region (in particular the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) — a strong Somalia was in all their interests.

The Deputy Secretary-General paid tribute to AMISOM and its personnel, but said that AMISOM needed more support. The United Nations was open to exploring all options for the future of international peacekeeping in Somalia. In August, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would undertake a joint review with the

African Union to establish benchmarks for a "conditions-based" transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation. That exercise would also look at AMISOM progress against its concept of operations and any immediate needs.

Ms. Adan highlighted the progress that Somalia had made over the past 12 months. Through the suspension of the arms embargo, bilateral agreements with Ethiopia and Kenya, and recognition by the World Bank and United States of America, Somalia was making progress on its foreign policy priorities. Ms. Adan expressed commitment to improving human rights in Somalia. The Permanent Representative of Ethiopia said that the region was committed to supporting Somalia's transition to peace and stability.

Most Council members supported the conference on Somalia held in London and welcomed the deployment of UNSOM. Some Council members emphasized the need to deliver an integrated mission as soon as possible, and most said that UNSOM must be the main point of contact between the international community and the Government of Somalia. Most Council members underscored the need for human rights to be better protected in Somalia, and some members welcomed the steps the Government had already taken to improve the human rights situation. Members of the Council urged the international community to fulfil its obligations related to the targeted sanctions, the modified arms embargo and the charcoal ban to stop proceeds from providing revenue to Al-Shabaab. One member stressed that additional efforts were also needed to combat piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia.

Most Council members highlighted their support for the upcoming joint United Nations/African Union review of AMISOM. All Council members paid tribute to the sacrifices that AMISOM, Somali, and Ethiopian troops had made in support of peace in Somalia.

The Council adopted a presidential statement at the end of the briefing (S/PRST/2013/7). In the statement, the Council welcomed the Somalia Conference held in London. It highlighted the Council's concerns over human rights in Somalia, including its deep concern about reports of sexual violence perpetrated by armed groups, including the Somali armed forces. It welcomed the deployment of UNSOM and underlined its expectation that the Mission should be integrated by 1 January 2014. The Council encouraged the Government of Somalia and "Somaliland" to remain committed to dialogue.

The Council called on all parties in the Juba region to refrain from actions that might undermine peace and stability in Somalia. The Council welcomed the Government of Somalia's commitment to lead reconciliation efforts, with the support of UNSOM, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other appropriate actors.

On 13 June, in consultations under "Other matters", the Council received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, on the situation in Jubaland. The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council about the tension that had been building in the Juba regions since the 15 May "election" of Ahmed Madobe as "President" of Jubaland, which the Government of Somalia had rejected and considered unconstitutional. The Government had sent a high-level delegation to Kismayo on 16 May and a military delegation on 17 May. Tensions came to a head on 7 and 8 June when fighting broke

out between Mr. Madobe's Ras Kamboni brigade and a militia backing Istin Hassan, whom the visiting Defence Minister was trying to meet (but was prevented from doing).

The Assistant Secretary-General described allegations of Kenyan components of AMISOM in Kismayo restricting the movement of the Government of Somalia, which had attracted serious criticism from Mogadishu regarding the role of the Kenyans in Somalia. AMISOM had dispatched a senior-level delegation to Kismayo to assess the situation. A delegation from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had also visited Kismayo between 16 and 19 May and had engaged a wide range of stakeholders. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, had met President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Both had agreed on the need for calm and had made joint calls for peace. The Special Representative met Mr. Madobe on 9 June as well as the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Commissioner of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. There remained the potential for further violence.

Most Council members expressed concern at the situation in Jubaland. Most members highlighted the importance of resolving the situation, under the leadership of the Government of Somalia, with support from others including UNSOM. Council members underlined that failure to address the issue had the potential to benefit Al-Shabaab, which was a situation that should be avoided at all costs. After the briefing, Council members drafted a statement to the press, which was issued on 13 June. In the statement (SC/11032), Council members expressed concern at the situation in the Juba regions and called on all parties to refrain from any action which might threaten peace and stability in the Juba regions. They reiterated their willingness to take action against those who undermined the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

On 19 June, Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/11039), in which they expressed outrage at the Al-Shabaab attack on a United Nations compound in Mogadishu. The members of the Council reiterated their willingness to take action against those whose behaviour threatened the peace, stability or security of Somalia.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 5 June, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on issues related to the Sudan and South Sudan.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the Council on the latest developments between the Sudan and South Sudan. The Special Envoy said that the issue of alleged South Sudanese support to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebel group had become the subject of public confrontation. Sudanese President Omer Hassan A. Al-Bashir had threatened to prevent the recommencement of oil exports and end cooperation on the September agreements as a consequence. South Sudan had responded by trading counter-accusations and continuing to deny the provision of any assistance to Sudanese rebels. Menkerios said that it was time to consider a third party mechanism that could independently verify the claims.

The members of the Council expressed their concern at the recent increase in rhetoric and condemned any support to rebel groups. Several members of the Council said that any oil shutdown would be against the interests of both parties. Some Council members noted with alarm the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions, stressing the need for humanitarian access, the immediate cessation of hostilities and urgent resumption of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N to resolve political, security and humanitarian concerns. Some Council members expressed grave concern at the recent increase of military activity by the Sudanese Revolutionary Front in Southern Kordofan and Northern Kordofan, and strongly condemned the rebels' attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Some also urged the Council to consider targeted sanctions on Sudanese Revolutionary Front rebels, including those involved in the May 2013 assassination of the faction leader and other members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM-Bashar).

On 14 June, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11034), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the attack earlier that day on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism interim headquarters in Kadugli, and called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

On 20 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed the Council in consultations on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported on recent developments between the two countries, saying that, following mutual accusations about support to rebels in each other's territory, on 8 June the Government of the Sudan had announced its intention to suspend the export of oil from South Sudan. President Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, had written to both Presidents with a proposed way forward on the issues concerning disputes over the border; allegations of support to rebels; and hostile propaganda. Both Governments had agreed to engage on those proposals. While the public crisis was ongoing, technical discussions had been held on oil and the borders.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported that fighting between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N had intensified in the past two weeks in the area around Kadugli, with shelling and aerial bombardments reported. The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism compound had been shelled on 14 June, resulting in the death of one UNISFA peacekeeper and the injury of two others. Sudanese Revolutionary Front admitted to shelling Kadugli, but said that it had been targeting a nearby military facility. In addition, on 12 June, there had been an attack leading to an explosion at a fuel station on the oil pipeline to the east of Diffra.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported on her visit to the Sudan from 20 to 24 May, where the humanitarian situation remained complex. The humanitarian needs were great; for example, more people had been displaced in Darfur thus far in 2013 than had been in the previous two years combined. The humanitarian appeal for the Sudan for 2013 had thus far been funded by only 37 per cent. At the same time, assistance was reaching large numbers of people in need in

Darfur. She reiterated her condemnation of the attacks on civilians in Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Northern Kordofan and called for respect for international humanitarian law. She said that there had been some improvements in access to Government-held areas, but that further improvements could be made in that regard and that there was no access to SPLM-N-held areas. Both sides had indicated their willingness to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, for example, on a polio vaccination campaign, but there had been no progress in that regard as yet. She said that her talks in Khartoum with President Al-Bashir had been constructive and that she now wanted to see their outcomes translated into action.

Council members expressed concern over the increased tension between the Sudan and South Sudan. Several noted that an oil shutdown would have a negative impact on both countries. They also said that the two countries should use established mechanisms for conflict and dispute resolution and welcomed the proposals of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. Several Council members said that all external support to the rebels should be stopped, while some urged the Council to consider imposing targeted sanctions on the rebels in the Sudan. Most Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation, and several stressed the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of direct talks over the two areas. Some said that this would create favourable conditions for a political settlement and humanitarian access to rebel-held territories.

International Criminal Court/the Sudan

On 5 June 2013, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, briefed the Council in an open meeting on her seventeenth report on the situation in Darfur. The Prosecutor expressed frustration, dismay and regret that inaction and paralysis within the Council continued while the plight of the victims of crimes committed in Darfur worsened. The Prosecutor was concerned that 300,000 people had been displaced in the first five months of 2013, more than had been displaced in the past two years.

The Prosecutor reported on recent judicial activities, including trial preparations for the Abdullah Banda case. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to monitor the situation in Darfur, including in respect of current crimes; alleged aerial bombardments and ground attacks targeting or indiscriminately affecting civilians; alleged widespread occurrence of sexual and gender violence; alleged crimes against human rights defenders, civil society members and community leaders; alleged abductions of and attacks on humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers; and alleged deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction. The Prosecutor also expressed concern at the ongoing involvement of indictees in alleged crimes in the Sudan. She noted reports placing indictee Ali Kushayb at the scene of an attack on the town of Abu Jeradil, in which more than 100 civilians were killed, scores more injured and 30,000 displaced.

The Office of the Prosecutor took note of reports of prosecutions of rebels by the Government of the Sudan but said that there had been no real prosecutions of systematic crimes committed by Government forces. The recommendations of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on justice, if implemented, would go a long way towards addressing the challenge of the deliberate imposition and tolerance of impunity.

The Prosecutor reported the continuing failure of the Government of the Sudan to implement the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court. She expressed concern at the repeated travels of President Al-Bashir, particularly to Chad, and noted the decision by the Pre-Trial Chamber on 26 March that Chad had failed to cooperate with the Court by refusing to arrest and surrender President Al-Bashir. The Prosecutor observed that the relationship between the Council and the Court had begun to strengthen in a positive way but that more needed to be done. The Council needed to adopt appropriate measures within its mandate to ensure that Sudanese fugitives were brought to justice sooner rather than later. The Prosecutor called upon the Council to ensure the compliance of the Sudan with resolution 1593 (2005), urged all States to cooperate with the Court and encouraged the Council to engage with all relevant organizations addressing the Darfur situation, including the Court.

Members of the Council commended the Prosecutor for the progress made by her Office and expressed their views regarding the situation in Darfur. Some Council members expressed concern at the outstanding arrest warrants and at the failure of the Sudan and other States to cooperate with the Court, and stressed the need for the Council to consider further measures to ensure cooperation. Other Council members called for further progress in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan made a statement.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 11 June, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11030), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on 11 June near the Supreme Court building in Kabul, which had caused a number of deaths and injuries, including among Afghan women and children, and for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility. The members of the Council reiterated their serious concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and illegal armed groups to the local population, national security forces, international military and international assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

On 20 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, briefed the Council in a public meeting on the situation in Afghanistan, drawing on the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/889-S/2013/350). The Special Representative said that Afghan security forces had entered the final phase in assuming the lead for security throughout the country, but that anti-Government elements were seeking to counter the effort by targeting security personnel and terrorizing civilians. He said that civilian casualties had increased, the major proportion of which was caused by anti-Government elements.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said it was hoped that legitimate concerns regarding the establishment of the Taliban office in Doha would soon be resolved, leading to direct talks between the High Peace Council and the Taliban. He noted that tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan were of concern.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework senior officials meeting in July had to result in a

reinvigorated agenda for action. It was important to emphasize the mutual nature of commitments. The continued delay in the passage of electoral legislation was of concern: promulgation was necessary before the summer recess of the National Assembly. Progress would require proactive engagement from the Government.

The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan said that the Government of Afghanistan had agreed to the opening of a Taliban office in Doha on the basis that peace talks would be conducted in accordance with a concrete set of principles, as a venue for negotiations between the Taliban and the High Peace Council, and that the office would not serve as an official representation of the Taliban. In its view, however, the Taliban office had been inaugurated in a manner that had contradicted those principles. The Government of Afghanistan had therefore decided that the High Peace Council would not engage in peace talks under the circumstances in which the Taliban office had opened and decided to announce a suspension of negotiations on the bilateral security agreement with the United States. The Permanent Representative also underlined the threat of terrorism to the peace and stability of Afghanistan and the region. The members of the Council, as well as non-Council member States taking part in the debate, expressed the hope that the controversies surrounding the opening of the Taliban office could be overcome and that progress could be made on an Afghan-led peace process.

Council members welcomed progress on the security transition and condemned recent terrorist attacks by the Taliban and other illegal armed groups. Council members expressed concern at the rise in civilian casualties.

Council members underlined the importance of inclusive, credible and transparent elections and expressed concerns about the progress of preparations, including the delays in passing electoral legislation. Some Council members stressed the importance of making progress against the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, including on human rights issues, and highlighted the importance of holding a senior officials review meeting in Kabul on 3 July.

Council members underlined the importance and value of regional cooperation, including the efforts undertaken with the framework of the Istanbul Process and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Some Council members noted the challenges caused by drug cultivation and trafficking and expressed concern at the developments set out in the report of the Secretary-General, including the increase in poppy cultivation.

Middle East

Iraq and Kuwait

On 27 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2107 (2013) moving the issues of missing persons and property from Chapter VII of the Charter to Chapter VI, under the oversight of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and ending the mandate of the High-level Coordinator on the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. In the resolution, the Security Council welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the two parties and the efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to the border and compensation, and called upon the Government of Iraq to facilitate the search for Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains still unaccounted for and to

continue efforts to search for missing Kuwaiti property. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, addressed the Council, setting out the steps Iraq had taken to resolve outstanding issues and reaffirming Iraq's commitment both on the search for the missing and on continued payment of compensation to Kuwait as set by the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Also on 27 June, the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the Council's decision to adopt resolution 2107 (2013) paved the way for Iraq to regain its international standing and improve its relations with Kuwait, while preserving the humanitarian nature of the issue of missing persons and property by calling on Iraq to continue the search. He noted Iraq's commendable efforts to search for missing persons, as demonstrated by further excavations at the Kamissiyah site, although he expressed disappointment that the Kuwaiti archives had not yet been found. At the very least, their fate needed to be determined; the quarterly meetings between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti committees established for the purpose of coordinating the search should help in that regard.

Council members welcomed the completion of border maintenance and the transfer of funds to compensate Iraqi citizens affected by the border's demarcation in 1993, praising Iraqi efforts and Kuwaiti flexibility while calling for the search to continue. They also expressed appreciation for the role of the former High-level Coordinators in paving the way for progress. Some Council members noted that in this case the Council had fulfilled its mandate of promoting international peace and security. A number of Council members raised the issue of the deterioration of security in Iraq and said that the Council needed to remain vigilant.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 25 June, the Security Council held its monthly meeting on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council at a public meeting. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole.

The Assistant Secretary-General said that the whole region was feeling the reverberations of the Syrian conflict. The Council and the United Nations at large could not give up and let a sense of collective impotence erode their sense of responsibility. He noted that the leaders of the Group of Eight had reached an understanding on achieving a political solution in the Syrian Arab Republic, in which they committed to bringing the Syrian sides to the negotiating table and pledged an additional $1.5 billion in humanitarian aid. Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and safeguarding the two-State solution was no less urgent. He praised the continued efforts of Secretary of State of the United States, John F. Kerry, and said that there was a need for a conducive environment on the ground, including confidence-building steps. He expressed concern at the recent settlement announcements, attacks by settlers and the six rockets fired from Gaza into Israel on 23 June.

In respect of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs noted that the overall situation continued to deteriorate as a result of the ongoing violent military confrontation. The independent international

commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic had reiterated in its report of 4 June that war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations continued apace. The involvement of Hizbullah fighters inside the Syrian Arab Republic was giving new momentum to the military approach of the Government and contributing to sectarian and political tensions throughout the region, while other Lebanese elements were also reported to be providing support to the other side and fighters from other countries were also reportedly participating in the conflict. He stressed that statements of increased military support to both sides in the conflict only promised further escalation and that only a political solution could bring an end to the violence in the country and the suffering of the Syrian people. The representatives of United Nations, the Russian Federation and the United States had met in Geneva on 25 June to discuss ways to ensure the success of the Geneva conference on the Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations Mission to Investigate Alleged Uses of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic remained unable to conduct its fact-finding activities inside the country owing to the lack of authorization by the Government to provide access. The Secretary-General was also concerned about the negative impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon.

Following the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole. On the Palestinian issue, members expressed support for the efforts of Mr. Kerry. Some members expressed concern about the negative impact that recent incidents might have on the peace process. They stressed the importance of dialogue and confidence-building between the two sides. Some members called on Israel to halt its settlement activities as well as lift restrictions on the Gaza Strip. In respect of the Syrian Arab Republic, all members reiterated the need for a political solution. A number of members raised concerns about the alleged use of chemical weapons, grave human rights abuses and the urgent need for humanitarian access. Some Council members noted that the regionalization of the Syrian conflict was compounded by Hizbullah's publicly stated involvement in fighting alongside the Syrian regime and the resulting impact on Lebanon's stability. Others expressed concern over the flow of fighters and weapons to armed opposition groups, as well as increasingly dangerous terrorist activities.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 18 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council in closed consultations on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He reported that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition were now clashing daily in the Golan. It was unacceptable for non-UNDOF military personnel or equipment to be in the area of separation. Both parties to the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces had to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of UNDOF personnel. The 39-year-old ceasefire was at real risk. Looking ahead, UNDOF would focus its activities on static observation, liaison and reporting. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations intended to strengthen troop numbers to 1,250, enhance technical capabilities and equip peacekeepers with machine guns mounted on armed personnel carriers, enhanced body armour and extra ammunition. The rules of engagement were clear: deadly force could be used in self-defence. The theft of equipment and attacks on United Nations vehicles had to end. He concluded by sharing the assessment of the Office of Legal Affairs that, under the terms of the 1974 Protocol to the Disengagement Agreement, the permanent members of the

Security Council could not contribute troops without amending the Protocol, which would require the agreement of both parties. Council members welcomed the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and stressed the need for the Disengagement Agreement to be respected and for the security of UNDOF to be guaranteed.

On 6 June the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11027), in which it strongly condemned the intense fighting in the Area of Separation in the Golan, which had led to injuries suffered by two UNDOF peacekeepers.

On 27 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 2108 (2013), in which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, stressed the need to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF and endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to consider further adjustments to the posture and operations of the Mission and to implement additional mitigation measures to enhance the self-defence capabilities of UNDOF, including by maximizing the Force strength.

Yemen

The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, briefed the Council in closed consultations on 11 June. In respect of the national dialogue, the Special Adviser said that the nine working groups had made considerable progress in terms of outreach (meeting 12,500 people in 18 governorates) and recommendations (100 had been made to the plenary meeting). Divisions remained on the more contentious topics related to the south and Sa'dah. The newly established consensus committee would be an important vehicle to defuse tensions. The Government still had to establish a commission of inquiry into the events of 2011 or adopt a law on transitional justice.

Further confidence-building measures were needed in the south to address past grievances and stem the increase in violence. There was also evidence of increased Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula activity in Hadramawt and sabotage of infrastructure by those wanting to disrupt the transition. A shortage of electricity and a lack of key services were increasing frustrations.

Turning to the humanitarian situation, the Special Adviser commended the efforts of Saudi Arabia, but said that the response plan was still only 30 per cent funded. Internally displaced persons remained a challenge in the north. Increased assistance, the fulfilment of Friends of Yemen pledges and progress on implementing the mutual accountability framework were urgently needed.

Council members spoke in familiar terms and stressed their unity on, as well as support for, the inclusive political process. Some Council members expressed concern over outstanding donor pledges and evidence of Iranian weapons smuggling into Yemen. One delegation recommended that the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council be invited to brief the Security Council after Ramadan.

Europe

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

On 14 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Farid Zarif, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Kosovo. This was the first Security Council meeting since the first agreement on principles governing the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina and the subsequent implementation plan had been agreed. Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo and the Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, made statements.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the progress made under the European Union-facilitated dialogue and noted the commitment made by both sides not to block progress on European Union accession talks. A culture of compromise and mutual respect between both sides prevailed, and signs of progress were encouraging. The Special Representative underlined that determination and persistence would be needed to sustain the spirit of compromise and mutual respect as both sides carried their agreement forward and implemented it in accordance with the plan signed on 22 May. He underlined the importance of the continued engagement of the international community in that regard. He also underlined that UNMIK was making efforts to ensure that its activities contributed to the creation, in close coordination with international partners, of an enabling environment for the implementation of the agreement. Nonetheless, in his report, the Secretary-General had noted that the threat of instability remained present in sensitive areas, both north and south of the Ibar River. The situation remained fragile and progress was not assured.

Mr. Dačić gave an assessment of the security situation in north Kosovo, citing that 60 ethnically motivated attacks had been reported in the first four months of 2013, up 20 from the same period in 2012. There were still concerns regarding the very slow progress in terms of the returns of internally displaced persons, attacks against the Serbian Orthodox Church and Kosovo's privatization of public assets. Mr. Dačić called for the UNMIK mandate to remain unchanged and the mission's activity enhanced, although he expressed understanding of the reasons for planned budget restrictions. He was keen to note the recent progress made and expressed his firm belief that the negotiations might lead to a solution acceptable for all.

In his speech, Mr. Thaçi said that Kosovo was committed to working with Serbia to ensure implementation of the agreement and looked forward to beginning on the path of European integration. The establishment of liaison offices engendered good relations beyond the institutional level and Kosovo would be represented at the ambassadorial level in Serbia for the first time. Local and municipal elections in October had been instrumental to establishing rule of law and democratic legitimacy across all of Kosovo. In the light of recent progress, he encouraged the Security Council to consider adopting a resolution in the near future to end UNMIK. He mentioned the recent recognition of Kosovo's independence by Guyana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

All Council members supported the 19 April agreement facilitated by the High Representative of the European Union, Catherine Ashton. Most Council members congratulated both Mr. Thaçi and Mr. Dačić and welcomed recent progress, but

urged caution as tensions were still prevalent, especially in northern Kosovo. Some members underlined that resolution 1244 (1999) was the legal basis for resolving the question of Kosovo and that efforts to resolve the issue should be carried out within the framework of the resolution, with one member stating that only the Security Council had the authority to take decisions on the issue of Kosovo's status. Some members highlighted the issue of organ trafficking, and would closely monitor progress on the investigation led by the European Union Rule of Law in Kosovo; one member called for United Nations involvement in the investigation. Council members supported the continued efforts of UNMIK to implement its mandate; some Council members underlined that the Mission had a role to play in the implementation of the 19 April agreement.

Non-proliferation

Renewal of the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010)

On 5 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2105 (2013), in which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010) until 9 July 2014, thereby assisting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for another year, and expressed its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 9 June 2014.

Thematic and other issues

Briefings by the Department for Political Affairs ("horizon scanning")

On 4 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council in closed session on the Sahel, Iraq and Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on preparations for a second conference in Geneva. In respect of the Sahel, he said that nowhere was the development-security nexus more evident and that failure to address the humanitarian, security, governance and developmental challenges in a holistic manner could fuel further instability. The United Nations had developed a strategy aimed at supporting the Governments and peoples of the region to address the causes of instability for the long term. Council members all agreed on the importance of the long-awaited Sahel strategy and of intraregional cooperation.

In respect of Iraq and Kuwait, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs endorsed the progress in relations between the two countries. Following the completion of border maintenance work and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on future maintenance, there was a "historic opportunity" to normalize relations. UNAMI had reached agreement with the Government of Iraq on payment of compensation to Iraqis relocated as a result of border demarcation more than 20 years ago. In addition, he said that both countries had indicated agreement to move the issues of missing persons and property from Chapter VII of the Charter to Chapter VI, under UNAMI supervision. He described the political situation as "worrisome", as demonstrations entered their sixth month. Following requests by both the Government and the demonstrators, UNAMI was stepping up contacts with political blocs, religious leaders and demonstrators so that it could play a facilitation

role. Council members noted the deteriorating internal situation in Iraq and welcomed the positive developments in the relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

In respect of the second conference in Geneva, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs welcomed the 7 May announcement by the United States and the Russian Federation to work towards holding a conference in Geneva, with the parties calling it the best opportunity for a negotiated solution in nearly a year. He said that the Secretary-General was also very concerned about the impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon. Council members were unanimous in their support of the United States-Russian initiative and welcomed United Nations involvement.

Peacekeeping: briefing by force commanders

On 26 June, United Nations peacekeeping Force Commanders from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) briefed the Council on the use of modern technology; inter-mission cooperation; and in-mission assessments of predeployment training. Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz reported that unmanned aerial vehicles would arrive in the Democratic Republic of the Congo imminently and should help the Mission to accomplish the tasks mandated by the Security Council in resolution 2098 (2013). The Mission would use those platforms to detect the location and movement of anti-Government forces, track their convoys and identify clandestine airstrips; in doing so, it would garner early warning of the intentions of armed groups. With their capacity to fly over sensitive and remote areas for many hours, the unmanned aerial vehicles would deter hostile action. That said, he noted that there were limits to what the unmanned aerial vehicles could achieve alone and that they were part of a package of measures and tools to help the Mission to achieve its objectives. On a more general note, he said that United Nations peacekeeping could not be outpaced if it was to remain effective since negative forces were already using increasingly sophisticated technology. He added that some technologies might be good for MONUSCO, but that they might not be as suited for deployment in other missions. Major General Leonard Muriuki Ngondi spoke of the need for an in-mission assessment of the predeployment training of United Nations peacekeepers in order to identify and rectify capability gaps and assess the sustainability procedures of contingents for contingent-owned equipment. Major General Muhammad Iqbal Asi spoke about how planned inter-mission cooperation could have an impact on mission crisis management. He said that inter-mission cooperation optimized the use of available assets (as demonstrated by the temporary redeployment of personnel and assets from UNMIL to UNOCI); enabled joint border surveillance; and enhanced local cooperation by providing a forum for liaison, coordination, the exchange of information and the opportunity to review agreed action points. Such themes were discussed by Council members in a subsequent exchange of views, in which many members expressed support for inter-mission cooperation, with some members expressing the view that it should be an ad-hoc measure in response to crisis situations and not a long-term solution. Members also expressed support for in-mission assessments of predeployment training, and a number of Council members noted the potential utility of new technologies for peacekeeping operations. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underlined the importance of

good performance and stated that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was working on a number of targeted manuals to address performance issues.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 12 June, the Council held a debate to consider the reports of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The Council heard briefings by the President (Judge Theodor Meron) and the Prosecutor (Serge Brammertz) of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and by the President (Judge Vagn Joensen) and the Prosecutor (Hassan Bubacar Jallow) of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the progress of the Tribunals in fulfilling their completion strategies and transition to the International Residual Mechanism.

Mr. Meron addressed both the completion strategy of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the work of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. He highlighted the cases completed since his previous report, leaving four trials (three of which were as a result of late arrests) and some appeals. A number of different measures had been adopted to minimize delays, but three appeals would go beyond 31 December 2014. Any appeal in the case of *Prlić et al* would only be completed in mid-2017 but it was not yet clear if an appeal would go to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia or the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The retention of staff continued to be a challenge. All the arrangements were in place for the commencement of the Hague branch of the International Residual Mechanism on 1 July 2013. He expressed concern about the situation in Mali, where 17 persons convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were serving their sentences. The International Residual Mechanism was responsible for three of the nine fugitives under the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and their arrest and transfer was a priority. He thanked the Council for its recent statement marking the twentieth anniversary of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Brammertz said that the Office of the Prosecutor had to accept the judgements issued but would continue to use all remaining legal mechanisms to press for outcomes that they thought were just and that properly reflected the culpability of the accused. The trial phase of Radovan *Karadžić* and the prosecution case against Ratko *Mladić* and Goran *Hadžić* would be completed by the end of the year. Problems affecting national war crimes strategies, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina, had become an increasingly disturbing refrain that required urgent action. Political leaders on all sides genuinely needed to commit to making the strategies successful. Establishing accountability on the fugitive networks in Serbia was a work in progress. Survivor communities had expressed frustration at the lack of progress in locating missing persons, requiring authorities in the region to refocus urgently. The Office of the Prosecutor was seeking creative ways to encourage staff members to stay at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and retention incentives were crucial in this regard.

Mr. Joensen recalled that all trials were complete but noted that one appeal would now finish by July 2015, as a result of a delay in translation, which he attributed to staff leaving the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda early.

His priority was to resolve the issue of the relocation of the seven acquitted persons and three persons who had served their sentences but remained in a safe house in Arusha. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had developed a strategic plan and called on all States to assist with the problem. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was still experiencing difficulties with staff retention owing to the lack of financial incentives to stay and the lack of possibilities for upward mobility. Following the resignation of Judge Andrésia Vaz (Senegal), he would be requesting the appointment of a replacing judge.

Mr. Jallow referred to the tracking, by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, of the three top-level fugitives, work on the archives and legacy projects. The work would only really be done when all the fugitives had been arrested and brought to justice. He urged all States to support the tracking and arrest of the fugitives.

A few Council members expressed disappointment that the Council had not been able to agree to the debate being open to all States Members of the United Nations. Most Council members congratulated the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on its 20 years of service and paid tribute to its contribution to international criminal justice. Some Council members noted that the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had paved the way for the creation of the International Criminal Court. In respect of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, most expressed support for finding a solution to the relocation of acquitted persons and urged States to cooperate in the arrest of the fugitives. A reward programme was highlighted, under which up to $5 million was available for information leading to their arrest. A Council member expressed concern that an appeal would continue beyond December 2014. A view was expressed that the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda should be transferred to Rwanda.

The following non-Council members participated in the debate in accordance with rule 37 or rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and made statements: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Liechtenstein (on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Uruguay) and the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

Women, peace and security

On 24 June, the Security Council held an open debate on the theme "Women, peace and security: addressing impunity and effective justice for crimes of sexual violence in conflict", and adopted resolution 2106 (2013). The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, William Hague, presided over the debate. France, Guatemala and Morocco were also represented at ministerial level. The Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, and the Legal Consultant to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, Jane Adong Anywar, briefed the Council. Over 40 non-Council members participated.

The Secretary-General recalled his recent trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the testimony he had heard from women and girls who had been raped and maimed by armed groups on all sides of the conflict, and their desire to end impunity. He described the varying and complementary work of United Nations entities in that area and called on leaders to voice their unequivocal support for the cause and to provide resources to support the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other mechanisms. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict described the systematic rape of women, girls, men and boys in the countries of the former Yugoslavia 20 years ago and lamented the tiny number of prosecutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina since that time. She said that conflict-related sexual violence, when left unaddressed by justice or reparations, could have a profound impact on the sustainability of peace and on prospects for development. She outlined the comprehensive approach of the new resolution in providing operational detail and reinforcing the conceptual framework for tackling sexual violence in conflict. She once again emphasized the importance of national ownership, leadership and political will.

The Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that the world had yet to take up war-zone rape as a serious priority. She described graphic instances of sexual violence and cases of victims she had met from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Arab Republic. She said that in many conflict situations there were no Governments to take responsibility, so there was no accountability and no protection. She said that the Security Council must therefore step in to provide leadership and assistance. The Legal Consultant to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice said that sexual violence crimes must be excluded from amnesty provisions. Leadership on accountability must be addressed at the national level, which includes adequate resources, legislation, and capacity-building. Domestic efforts, however, must be complemented by effective international efforts.

Council members expressed strong support for the need to tackle impunity and to strengthen national institutions and rule of law systems in order to hold perpetrators accountable. They recalled the primary responsibility of national courts to tackle impunity. Some members recalled the important role played by international criminal justice, including the International Criminal Court. Many reiterated the crucial role women can and must play in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and the importance of their participation in all sectors of society as stakeholders, not subjects. Many delegations highlighted the importance of addressing root causes. Some Council members and a number of non-Council members called for comprehensive service provision for victims of sexual violence. Some members referenced the newly adopted Arms Trade Treaty and its regulation of arms transfers linked to violence committed against women and children. A number reiterated calls for the deployment of more women protection advisers to United Nations missions. Members welcomed the adoption of the new resolution and expressed support for the hard work and mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Some delegations stressed that the Security Council should address the issue of sexual violence according to its mandate, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies. Some delegations also emphasized that concerned countries should play a primary role in addressing the issue of sexual violence stressing the primacy of State sovereignty, and that any

work to address sexual violence, including engagement with non-State actors or offers of assistance, should be done in cooperation and with the full consent of the Government concerned.

In resolution 2106 (2013), the Council reiterated the importance of addressing sexual violence in armed conflict whenever relevant, in mediation efforts, ceasefires and peace agreements; requested relevant United Nations entities to assist national authorities in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, security sector and justice sector reform processes; requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to accelerate the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; called for the further deployment of women protection advisers in accordance with resolution 1888 (2009), in respect of peacekeeping and political missions; and recognized the primary responsibility of States to respect and ensure the human rights of all persons within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction. It stressed women's participation as essential to any prevention and protection response. The commitments made by the Group of Eight Ministers for Foreign Affairs in the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict were recognized by the Council.

Natural resources

On 19 June, the Security Council held an open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: conflict prevention and natural resources". The Security Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General; the Chair of the Africa Progress Panel, Kofi Annan; the Managing Director of the World Bank, Caroline Anstey; and the Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Rebeca Grynspan.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the United Nations had bolstered its capacity to engage on natural resource issues, including through improving understanding of their impact on peace processes and mediation efforts. The Global Compact Initiative and its Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provided a global standard for preventing and addressing human rights abuses linked to business activities. Mr. Annan presented the main findings of the 2013 report of the Africa Progress Panel entitled *Equity in Extractives: Stewarding Africa's Natural Resources for All*. National Governments were responsible for developing strategies and policies that would generate jobs for the local economy, reduce poverty and promote transparency. The international community must clamp down on tax evasion by multinational companies. Ms. Anstey briefed the Council on the activities of the World Bank in the extractives sector. Working in more than 70 countries, the Bank was levelling the playing field for contract negotiations; ensuring proper revenue collection; managing expenditures financed through natural resources; supporting affected local communities; and working with civil society, parliamentarians and the media to improve accountability. Ms. Grynspan said that UNDP provided impartial advice and support to countries on how to effectively manage their natural resources by helping them to build robust legal and policy frameworks. UNDP also worked to ensure the full participation of local communities, especially women, since there was growing evidence that the negative impacts of the extractive sector were not gender neutral. Council members expressed a range of views, with a number of Council members recognizing the role

that the illegal exploitation of natural resources could play in triggering, escalating and fuelling conflict. Others stressed the importance of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and questioned the role of the Council in dealing with that issue. They also mentioned the important contribution that Governments and the private sector could make in preventing conflict in countries affected by conflict and the potential of voluntary international and regional initiatives to improve transparency and combat the illicit exploitation of natural resources.

Children and armed conflict

On 17 June, the Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, presented the twelfth annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/245). The Special Representative said that there had been marked progress, especially in relation to dialogue with parties to conflict and action plans, but noted disturbing new trends and concerns for children. In particular, she highlighted concern over the situation of children in the Syrian Arab Republic, Mali and the Central African Republic. The Special Representative announced that her office would be launching a campaign that aimed to end by 2016 the association of children with State armed forces in situations of armed conflict. She called upon the Council to ensure provisions for child protection advisers in all relevant United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions and for perpetrators to receive the strongest signal from the Council that their crimes would not go unpunished.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underlined the importance of child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations. While highlighting successes, he stressed that more needed to be done. He said that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was finalizing predeployment training materials for peacekeepers as well as revising their guidelines on child protection. The Deputy Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Yoka Brandt, and the Associate Vice-President of Save the Children, Greg Ramm, both expressed concern at the use of schools in military operations and the use of explosive weapons. Mr. Ramm also raised the issue of the physical, psychological and social impacts on children of sexual violence. He called on Member States to place children at the centre of international action on addressing sexual violence in conflict.

The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/8), in which it, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the Council to effectively deal with persistent perpetrators of violations and abuse against children in situations of armed conflict, including by strengthening the implementation of action plans, child protection provisions and accountability, stressed the primary role of Governments in providing protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict and reiterated its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Council (S/2010/507) ("wrap-up" session)

In the afternoon session on 27 June 2013, the Security Council held a wrap-up session, convened as a private meeting, as described in paragraph 36 (b) (iii) of the note by the President of the Council (S/2010/507). In accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, over 60 non-Council members attended. The President circulated a concept note in advance of the meeting. The meeting allowed for an exchange on a range of issues discussed during the month of June. Most Council members welcomed the President's tight management of Council business, that the meetings were starting promptly and that speakers were being encouraged to be concise and brief, in accordance with the guidance provided in the note S/2010/507.

The month had been busy and the main themes drawn out in the discussion were the following:

- Some Council members supported the debate on conflict prevention and natural resources and expressed disappointment that there had not been agreement among Council members on a presidential statement to accompany the debate. Some expressed the view that the topic was not for the Council to discuss, but for other United Nations bodies.
- Most Council members welcomed and supported the debates on sexual violence in conflict and children and armed conflict. Many picked up and endorsed the theme of tackling impunity and ensuring accountability for crimes committed, commenting that the debates had noticeably helped push that agenda forward.
- A number of Council members noted the positive impact of the Council's actions in respect of UNDOF.
- Looking ahead, a number of Council members welcomed the imminent formal establishment of the new mission in Mali, MINUSMA, and anticipated the first report on progress. The situations in the Central African Republic, Lebanon and Libya also drew comment, with members hoping for positive action from the Council on those topics in order to help to stabilize the situations in those countries.